

Commitment to Caring: *Air Force Assistance Fund drive starts*

The Air Force Assistance Fund “Commitment to Caring” campaign launched March 24, asking Airmen to contribute to one or more of four Air Force-related charities through cash, check or payroll deduction.

The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families. Charities receive 100 percent of Air Force Assistance Fund contributions.

Charities under the Air Force Assistance Fund umbrella are the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Foundation, Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

The Air Force Aid Society, the of-

ficial charitable organization of the Air Force, provides Airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs.

Local family support centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements.

Information is also available online at www.afas.org.

The Air Force Enlisted Foundation, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older.

More information is available at www.afenlistedwidows.org.

The Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund in San Antonio, a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members; includes indigent widows fund for widows and widowers of Air Force officers.

The Air Force Villages Web site is at www.airforcevillages.com.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, provides rent and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted

people in their homes and communities.

The LeMay Foundation Web site is at www.info@lemayfoundation.org.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible as an itemized federal deduction.

To learn more about how you can contribute to the Air Force Assistance Fund, contact your unit project officer or Capt. Emilio Ruizsoriano at 846-1555, 1st Lt. Douglas Chilson at 846-3100 or Tech. Sgt. Montrealle Parker at 846-0587.

VA prescription must be filled at Med Group, TRICARE pharmacy

If you see a Veterans Affairs Healthcare System provider, you will soon notice some changes in the way your prescriptions are handled.

Active duty personnel, their beneficiaries and other DOD patients must now have prescriptions filled at either the 377th Medical Group pharmacy or a TRICARE participating pharmacy.

At present, the VA pharmacy is not part of the nationwide DOD Pharmacy Data Transaction Service, therefore potential drug interactions or therapy overlaps can go undetected.

There are several things you can do to make this transition smooth.

★ Identify yourself as a DOD beneficiary when meeting your provider. When medication therapy is discussed, remind the provider that he or

she must write prescriptions for you.

★ If there are questions about medication availability, ask that the provider call 846-3130 before you leave the office. This will save time for you, as well as the provider.

★ If referred by the Medical Group managed care office, bring all paperwork they give you to your appointment.

The Medical Group pharmacy is open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. If you receive a prescription after hours or on the weekend, there are numerous pharmacies in Albuquerque that can fill DOD beneficiary prescriptions.

For pharmacy addresses, ask at the TRIWEST service center for a printed list or visit www.triwest.com and click on beneficiary.

Child Abuse Prevention Month: *review your disciplining practices*

BY MIKE WALT

Kirtland AFB Family Advocacy

A child’s death more than a decade ago provided the symbol that represents Child Abuse Prevention Month—the Blue Ribbon Campaign.

Bonnie Finney founded the campaign after her 3-year-old grandson was murdered by his mother’s boyfriend. She chose blue because, “I intend to never forget the bruised body of my grandchild. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for the protection of our children.”

The Blue Ribbon Campaign represents a nationwide effort to educate Americans about child abuse and its many forms. The campaign and the education efforts are observed during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Child abuse is any mistreatment or neglect of a child that results in harm or injury by a caregiver. There are four basic forms of child abuse: neglect,

physical, emotional and sexual.

Neglect is usually defined as “the failure to provide for a child’s basic needs,” whether it is physical, educational or emotional

Physical abuse can be the result of a single episode or repeated incidents.

Habitual name-calling, disparaging remarks, humiliation, being psychologically inaccessible or rejecting a child are all forms of emotional abuse.

The last form of child abuse is sexual abuse, which includes any sexual use of a child for profit or for the sexual gratification of an adult.

Free books and pamphlets, parent-infant and toddler play groups and counseling are also available through Family Advocacy. Additionally, the Kirtland AFB Community Helping Agencies Team offers many prevention and support resources. Call Family Advocacy, 846-0139 for information and assistance.

OF NOTE

Briefings

Moving briefed

Smooth Move Brief is **April 3**, 1:30-3 p.m., at the Family Support Center. Learn how to make that next move your easiest yet. Call 846-0741.

Transition, survivor benefits briefed

Transition and the Survivor Benefit Plan Workshop is **today**, 9-10:30 a.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

Retirees briefed

The Kirtland AFB Retiree Activities briefing is **tomorrow**, 10-11:30 a.m., at the Rio Grande Community Center. The briefing includes information on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,

updates on Concurrent Receipt, New Mexico property tax exemption and other benefits changes.

Biz execs offer counseling

Service Corp of Retired Executives Small Business Counseling is offered **April 1**, 9 a.m.-noon by appointment only, at the Family Support Center. Retired service members working at the Small Business Administration will take your questions about starting a small business. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Call 846-0741.

Closings

Public Health cut during exercises

Public Health offers services on a limited basis during all exercises and

processing lines. Before visiting Public Health, call 846-3461 for availability.

Medical group closes during annual training

The 377th Medical Group is open with very limited services **April 16** and for active duty sick call only, 7-8 a.m. **April 17**, during annual training. Normal operations resume **April 18**.

Public Health sections close April 11 for function

The Public Health, Force Health Management, Bioengineering, Optometry and Medical Plans and Operations Flight close **April 11**, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., for an official squadron function.

Events

Tour set for April 4

Welcome to New Mexico Tour is **April 4**, 10:10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The tour begins at the Family Support Center. Call 846-0741.

Gospel concert moves off-base

The Kirtland AFB Inspirational Gospel Service sponsors a gospel music concert **March 30**, 3 p.m. The program is at God's House Church, 2335 Wyoming Boulevard NE to enable participation by local churches. Contact Chap., Capt., John Von Almen, 846-5691.

58th SOW holds monthly enlisted promotions

The 58th Special Operations Wing holds enlisted promotions ceremonies the **last duty day of the month**,

9:30 a.m., at the 58th Training Squadron Auditorium. The Airmen's families, friends and everyone on base is invited to observe the special event.

377th ABW holds monthly enlisted promotions

The 377th Air Base Wing holds an enlisted promotion ceremony the **last duty day of each month**, 3 p.m., in the base theater. Families and friends of those being promoted are encouraged to attend and everyone on base is welcome to attend the ceremony.

58th's tour rescheduled

The 58th Special Operations Wing's Newcomers tour in March was rescheduled for **April 23**. Call Staff Sgt. Laura Holzer at 853-5858.

Awards ceremony set April 25

The Kirtland AFB Quarterly Awards Ceremony and Luncheon is **April 25**, 11:30 a.m., in the Mountain View Club. Menu is chicken salad croissant with sliced fruit. Tickets are \$8 for club members and \$10 for nonmember. Reserve a seat with your first sergeant by **April 21**.